120. Measures for the development of trade in the Changanacherry town.

MR. K. C. CHACKO (*Trading classes, Changanacherry*) said that commercial activities in the Changanacherry town had increased enormously of late years, notwithstanding the fact that serious difficulties had to be surmounted in the transport of goods to and from the town. The excavation of the Changanacherry—Alleppey canal was started in 1103; but the work was stopped within a few months. The work should be resumed and completed as early as possible.

The condition of the Changanacherry—Cherukara canal was far from satisfactory. The canal, which was the shortest route to Cochin, was not fit for traffic during the hot months of the year. Steam-boats plying between Changanacherry and Ernakulam went round Pallaturutti as the canal was not navigable during those months. Further, the canal was not sufficiently wide near the market landing and at Vazhapalli. It should be widened and deepened down to the Vembanad lake.

As the travellers' bungalow at Changanacherry was situated in an inconvenient and unhealthy locality, Government sanctioned the construction of a new building for the purpose at a more convenient place. After the opening of the new building, the old travellers' bungalow and its site should be handed over to the Municipality for being used as a place of public recreation.

Formerly, there were innumerable lanes in the Changanacherry town. The owners of adjoining lands made encroachments on them, with the result that in course of time several of them had completely disappeared. The remaining lanes were too narrow. The lanes to the north and south of the municipal well in the market should be widened with a view to facilitating the transport of commodities to the market.

Innumerable motor boats and country barges called at the Changanacherry jetty during all hours of the day. Thefts frequently occurred in the market and at the jetty. A police outpost should therefore be opened at the market landing. For the convenience of travellers, a waiting shed should also be constructed at the landing place.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. Chacko, the second point in your representation is about the deepening of the Chanacherry-Cherukara canal. I understand that the canal is deep enough all along its course except in a certain portion where it forms part of the Alleppey-Changanacherry canal. It is even now fit for traffic. For the portion where it is not deep enough, an estimate for deepening it has been sanctioned and the work will be taken up soon.

As regards the traveller's bungalow, as you yourself said, sanction has been given for the construction of a new T. B. I expect that the work will be taken up soon. An estimate has been called for from the P. W. D. and proceedings for land acquisition will be taken by the Land Revenue Department. After the new T. B. is completed, the other question of the present site being handed over to the Municipality will be considered.

You say that there are very narrow lanes leading to the market and you want Government to take them up. Now, as a matter of policy, Government have entrusted the work of attending to the lanes to the Municipality. The only thing I can do is to send your representation to the Municipal Council and call for a report from the President as to what the Council is doing in that direction.

Your fifth point was the opening of a Police outpost and the construction of a waiting shed at the market landing. You know there is a Police Station very near and it is doubtful whether there is need for an outpost in that place. I think a beat constable there is enough. As for the waiting shed, a report has already been called for.

Then, there only remains your first point, and that is the completion of the Changanachery-Alleppey canal. That subject has been brought up by other members to whose representations I have already replied.

121. Certain urgent needs of the Changanacherry town.

MR. VARKEY ZACHARIA (*Municipal Council, Changanacherry*) thanked the Government for having sanctioned the construction of a new building at Changanacherry, near the vestiges of the fortress constructed by the famous Thekumkur Rajas, to be used as the travellers' bungalow. He expressed the hope that the building, when completed, would be in harmony with the surrounding landscape.

The Changanacherry Municipal Council had been looking around for a proper site for opening a public recreation ground. With the opening of the new travellers' bungalow, it would be possible for Government to transfer to the Municipality the old travellers' bungalow with the site. It was said that Government's intention was to dispose of the site and building by auction sale. But it was necessary that the building and the land should be handed over to the Municipality free of cost. The Municipal Council had passed several resolutions in the matter and forwarded them to Government

Arrears were heavy in the Munsiff-Magistrates' Court at Changanacherry. On an average, 570 criminal cases were filed in that court in a year. On account of the inordinate delay in the disposal of cases, most of the cases were withdrawn or compromised out of court. It was high time Government realised the necessity for opening a first class Magistrate's court at Changanacherry.

The construction of the Changanacherry-Alleppey canal was sanctioned by Government as the result of representations made at previous sessions of the Assembly. The work was not being proceeded with, owing to differences of opinion among the officers of the department. It was superfluous to mention what advantage the people of the taluk stood to gain by the canal, which would be the main artery of trade and commerce in and around Changanacherry. Government should issue instructions for the early completion of the canal.